



National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

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717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.nass.usda.gov

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending June 25, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Fair Week for Field Work: The week started out on the sunny side, but rain put a quick halt to fieldwork towards the weekend. Farmers hurried to make hay and spray corn before the rain. Then everyone asked for rain, and they received it...plenty of it. Although field crops got a much needed drink, some fields were oversaturated. Some areas in Pennsylvania received about two inches of rain, where the heavy storms flattened some of the wheat crop. Now some sunshine is necessary to get moisture levels down to normal and give farmers a chance to harvest hay and wheat. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spraying pesticides and topdressings, repairing equipment, rotating pastures, cutting hay, spreading manure, picking strawberries, and planting soybeans.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 25, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	15	60	25

Crops: Corn progress is ahead of normal, as all of the corn has emerged. The rain helped the corn condition, with 63 percent of the crop in good or excellent condition. At 23 inches, corn height is 1 inch above the 5-year average. Hopefully conditions will continue to favor growth as we wait for the corn to tassel. Soybean planting is almost complete at 96 percent, which lags last year's figure by 3 percent, but is still ahead of the average by 7 percent. Eighty-four percent of the soybeans have emerged, 3 percent ahead of the 5-year average. The wheat crop is well ahead of schedule, as 95 percent of the crop is yellow, which is 25 percent ahead of the average. Also, 37 percent is already ripe, which is a whopping 30 percent ahead of normal. For the first time in five years, farmers are harvesting at this time, with 10 percent of the crop off of the field. The wheat condition has not changed much from the previous week, with 77 percent of the crop being reported as good or excellent. Similar to wheat, barley production is well ahead of normal. Ninety-four percent of the crop is ripe, and 60 percent has been harvested. These two numbers are well ahead of both last year's figures and the 5-year averages. Seventy-one percent of the oat crop is headed, slightly higher than the average of 60 percent. Oat condition has improved from the previous week, with seventy-one percent of the oat crop in either good or excellent condition. In comparison with last year, first cutting for alfalfa is 2 percent ahead at 92 percent complete. Alfalfa second cutting is moving along at the same pace as last year, at 24 percent complete. The timothy/clover first cutting is 73 percent complete, which is 15 percent ahead of the 5-year average. The quality of hay made has declined from last week, with this week's

conditions reported as 12 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

The peach and apple conditions in Pennsylvania have remained steady for the past several weeks, with no changes reported. All of the apples and 98 percent of the peaches are reported to be in good or excellent condition, the same as last week.

Livestock: Farmers are giving good reports of pasture regrowth, thanks to the rain. However, some are rotating pastures due to flooding. The pasture condition has improved from the previous week. Conditions were reported as the following: 3 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

U.S. as of June 20, 2006: Temperatures averaged as much as 6 degrees Fahrenheit below normal across the central Corn Belt, Ohio River Valley, and much of the Atlantic Coast. Mostly warm conditions across the northern Great Plains and neighboring areas of the Corn Belt encouraged fieldwork and summer crop development, but caused crop conditions to decline.

Corn: Most of the crop was between the emergence and silking stages. Though well underway in the southernmost areas, silking had not yet begun in the major producing Corn Belt States. Condition of the crop declined slightly as warm, dry weather in the northern Great Plains and Corn Belt sapped soil moisture.

Soybeans: Ninety-seven percent of the acreage had been planted, 1 percentage point ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Emergence advanced to 92 percent, compared with 91 percent last year and 86 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was ahead of normal in all states.

Winter Wheat: Producers had reaped 38 percent of their crop, 21 points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of normal. Over half of the crop had been harvested in the south-central states, but harvesting had not yet begun in the northern states. Harvest was at or ahead of normal in most states.

Small Grains: Barley heading advanced to 15 percent, compared with 9 percent last year and 11 percent for the 5-year average. Barley condition declined in the major producing states, but 74 percent of the crop is still in the good or excellent range.

Oat heading, at 59 percent, was 12 points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of normal. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all states. Nationwide, small grain crop conditions declined, due mostly to hot, dry conditions in the northern Great Plains and northwestern Corn Belt.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 25, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 25, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	54	69	2	1.21	5	8.45	-1.67	37	778	109	1,509
Franklin	89	50	70	4	1.94	5	11.02	-0.17	37	737	91	1,509
Meadville	86	51	68	3	2.07	5	9.75	-1.11	36	731	155	1,476
Mercer	87	49	68	2	3.32	5	13.81	2.78	38	677	29	1,437
Springboro	87	48	67	-2	1.61	5	12.06	2.38	39	624	-60	1,332
Warren	87	49	69	2	2.52	5	11.27	-0.35	38	666	45	1,403
North Central												
Bradford Region	84	41	67	5	1.38	4	9.51	-2.17	38	513	89	1,189
Emporium	89	51	70	7	2.17	4	11.41	-0.30	39	674	190	1,448
Kane	85	41	65	4	1.55	4	8.94	-2.88	33	433	16	1,101
Laporte	83	52	68	2	1.70	5	10.97	-0.15	41	563	-81	1,280
Lock Haven	92	54	72	5	2.40	4	11.20	0.53	34	808	105	1,613
Port Allegany	87	49	68	5	1.68	5	9.05	-2.25	34	544	44	1,245
Renovo	91	55	72	4	1.37	4	10.69	0.02	38	776	73	1,574
Ridgway	85	46	66	3	1.88	4	10.83	-0.88	39	544	60	1,271
Stevenson Dam	90	53	70	7	1.35	4	8.12	-3.59	32	716	232	1,508
Towanda	93	53	73	7	0.66	4	7.51	-1.81	35	720	62	1,479
Wellsboro	84	48	67	5	1.53	4	9.29	0.17	34	539	96	1,239
Williamsport	92	56	74	5	0.72	4	7.95	-2.76	34	885	78	1,690
Northeast												
Hawley	90	53	71	7	0.42	2	13.84	3.25	29	604	82	1,326
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	90	56	72	4	0.94	4	7.55	-2.40	32	823	75	1,606
Susquehanna	90	52	71	7	1.51	4	10.74	-0.38	41	639	144	1,376
West Central												
Butler	87	51	70	3	1.88	5	11.59	0.65	36	708	22	1,491
New Castle	89	52	70	3	2.84	5	12.27	2.36	39	825	140	1,619
Slippery Rock	89	51	70	5	3.47	5	14.41	3.80	42	752	138	1,535
Central												
Altoona/Blair	87	52	71	3	1.91	5	8.07	-2.05	33	804	39	1,603
DuBois	85	48	69	3	2.03	6	11.17	-0.17	41	669	35	1,419
Lewistown	91	55	73	4	1.94	4	10.51	-0.16	34	873	22	1,686
Middletown	94	62	78	6	1.34	4	7.93	-2.82	29	1,111	139	1,941
Prince Gallitzi	89	46	68	4	1.40	5	10.73	-1.88	37	575	3	1,323
Selinsgrove	93	56	74	5	2.23	4	10.85	0.02	32	840	68	1,645
State College	90	55	72	4	1.40	4	8.00	-1.92	31	853	105	1,663
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	93	60	75	5	1.05	5	8.13	-2.69	36	974	103	1,788
Lehighton	90	59	74	5	1.71	5	10.93	0.09	39	850	20	1,645
Matamoras	91	55	72	4	0.86	5	10.34	-1.14	38	690	-43	1,445
Mt_Pocono	87	50	70	8	0.72	5	11.46	-0.62	40	598	160	1,327
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	57	72	4	1.62	5	9.56	-0.97	39	942	174	1,761
Derry	89	50	69	2	2.02	4	12.89	2.38	35	732	32	1,519
Myersdale	85	49	67	-1	2.00	5	10.55	-0.98	41	467	-216	1,184
Mount Pleasant	87	52	70	5	2.08	4	12.05	-0.16	37	705	103	1,487
Pittsburgh Intl	87	54	71	3	1.71	5	9.53	-0.27	36	909	92	1,716
Connellsville	90	57	72	3	1.47	4	11.83	0.33	44	864	18	1,670
Waynesburg	89	54	70	3	1.62	4	8.53	-2.07	35	757	20	1,557
South Central												
Biglerville	94	60	76	4	1.11	4	9.01	-1.07	33	976	11	1,803
Everett	88	50	68	-1	1.51	5	10.38	0.68	37	574	-165	1,371
Hanover	93	55	76	5	0.43	5	7.33	-2.75	35	952	-13	1,773
Harrisburg_AP	93	58	77	5	1.33	5	8.82	-1.93	33	1,062	83	1,892
South Mountain	87	54	71	3	1.36	4	9.98	-0.14	36	696	-62	1,483
York	93	54	76	5	0.42	5	6.97	-3.92	35	947	-24	1,762
Southeast												
Green Lane	91	61	76	7	1.74	5	11.69	1.22	34	983	166	1,801
Hamburg	94	62	76	8	1.77	5	8.94	-3.70	38	1,023	303	1,839
West_Chester	92	53	74	3	1.52	3	10.81	-0.87	30	895	-55	1,707
Lancaster	92	62	77	6	0.56	5	9.86	-0.80	33	1,017	142	1,841
Neshaminy Falls	90	60	75	5	1.40	3	13.17	1.40	31	894	23	1,714
New Holland	92	61	76	6	1.14	5	7.88	-2.78	33	1,022	147	1,842
Philadelphia	91	68	79	7	0.25	3	9.82	-0.64	27	1,255	214	2,102
Philadelphia NE	92	65	80	7	0.23	3	12.14	1.68	30	1,232	191	2,074
Reading	93	60	77	7	0.88	4	9.01	-2.78	32	1,059	214	1,880
Valley Forge Na	93	59	76	3	2.91	4	11.56	0.66	31	997	-22	1,819
Willow Grove	90	63	77	6	1.59	3	10.42	-1.35	32	1,077	206	1,909

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County hardly received any rain until Saturday, Sunday, and today. Some parts of county have already received up to 7 inches and other parts towards New Oxford/Hanover received a little over an inch. Most of this rain has been flooding fields, but the first few rain showers were beneficial to all crops.

Corn and soybeans are looking good. Hay continued to be made last week with high humidity days. Barley had been harvested last week. In another week, wheat harvesting will begin.

Apples are about the size of golf balls or a little bigger. Peaches are looking good and tart cherries are being harvested. Sweet cherries and strawberry harvests are almost complete.

Overall, when it stops raining the crops should fair OK.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Three to four inches of rain on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday reduced the drought conditions. This was a timely rain for all of the crops. Prior to the rains, it was an excellent week for hay and barley harvest.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - Torrential downpours have saturated fields, suspending completion of soybean planting and hay harvesting. The possible flooding of fields will cause replanting of spring planted crops and begin insurance claims for low laying areas.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It's been a rainy week. Some hay was cut but there wasn't enough drying time. The corn has really taken off. Some heavy winds flattened some barley and wheat fields.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - We had about 1.75 inches of rain for the week. Some field work was done during the early part of the week, but work was slowed down by late week showers.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - It looks like some Roundup Ready beans haven't been sprayed yet. With the wet weather, weeds will have a chance to really get established before spraying. Locally, we have had a little over 2 inches of rain in the past week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Rain put a halt to making hay this week. However, farmers were busy topdressing hayfields and repairing equipment. Corn and soybeans are looking good, although pastures are slow to recover.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - I don't know about anyone else, but I could sure use a week of dry sunny weather; enough with the rain and drizzle.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Rain all week has slowed down haymaking. The 2nd cutting is growing very well due to excessive moisture. Corn and oats are also growing well.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Rain is becoming too much of a good thing. It has brought the haymaking and other field activities to a halt for the time being; at least until there is some sunshine to dry out the fields. The corn in many fields is making a lot of progress, except in the poorly drained areas. The second growth of alfalfa is growing at a very rapid pace. The field activities were haymaking and spraying herbicides at the beginning of the week, and none at the end of the week.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Several producers have informed me that they are hoping last week's rain will help the second cutting of hay produce a better yield.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - With rain almost every day, this was a good week for growing but a poor week to try hay harvesting. Small grains are developing nicely. Hopefully conditions will allow some barley to dry so harvest can begin in the next week or so.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 25, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, emerged	100	97	91
Corn average height, inches	23	22	22
Barley, ripe	94	52	65
Barley, harvested	60	37	37
Wheat, turning yellow	95	72	70
Wheat, ripe	37	2	7
Wheat, harvested	10	0	0
Oats, heading or headed	71	66	60
Soybeans, planted	96	99	89
Soybeans, emerged	84	95	81
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	92	90	83
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	24	24	20
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	73	72	58

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 25, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	5	31	40	23
Wheat	0	1	22	60	17
Oats	0	1	28	58	13
Soybeans	0	2	33	51	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	21	48	28
Timothy clover stand	0	6	28	54	12
Quality of hay made	0	12	24	48	16
Pasture	3	9	37	40	11
Peaches	0	0	2	52	46
Apples	0	0	0	50	50

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